

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 14 has been canceled and various of the claims have been amended to better clarify salient features of the invention.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 14 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-13 and 15-22 are now pending.

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

Claims 9-22 are rejected.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9-12 AND 22 UNDER 35 USC 103(a) OVER AAPA IN VIEW OF IMAMURA (USP '624) AND YAMAKAWA (USP '876)

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 11

In the rejection of claims 9 and 11, the Examiner concedes that Imamura does not teach internal power supply controlling means (unit)--and then asserts it "would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art...to provide Imamura's voltage detection unit in the AAPA device for detecting the high voltage for display and it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art...to provide the internal power control means of Yamakawa in the device of Imamura to control the internal power supply unit." (Item 2 of Office Action at pages 2-3)

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has provided no *prima facie* showing supporting the alleged obviousness of the combination of the references and, furthermore, that the conclusions drawn in the Examiner's rejection are incorrect.

Yamakawa discloses internal power control by the DC-DC converter 120. More particularly, in Yamakawa, the DC-DC converter 120 is used to decrease the output voltage V_{cb} thereof at a rate slower than the source voltage V_c when the power source 115 is turned off; therefore, the operation of the DC-DC converter 120 is controlled by the source voltage V_c .

In contrast to the use of the source voltage V_c in Yamakawa, in the present invention as defined by claim 9, the internal power supply controlling unit produces power supply control signals controlling an operation of an internal power supply circuit in response to a first high

voltage detected by a voltage detecting unit. Further, in the present invention as defined by claim 11, the internal power supply controlling unit controls an operation of an internal power supply circuit in response to a compared result of a detected high voltage. More particularly, the detected high voltage is compared with first and second specific values, respectively, when the high voltage is rising and when first high voltage is falling. Thus, in the present invention as defined by claims 9 and 11, the internal power supply controlling unit is controlled by the first high voltage. Further, as specified in the respective preambles of claims 9 and 11, the first high voltage is used to supply a sustain pulse for a flat plasma display. These special characteristics of the invention, as defined in claims 9 and 11, are not taught or suggested in any of Imamura, Yamakawa nor AAPA. Clearly, the source voltage V_c of Yamakawa is altogether unrelated to the detected first high voltage used in the circuit of the present invention as defined by claims 9 and 11.

Moreover, and as noted above, the Action is altogether devoid of any *prima facie* showing of obviousness in support of the combination of the AAPA with Imamura and Yamakawa. No motivation whatsoever is cited as supporting the combination and, at best, the Examiner is relying on "common knowledge" to justify the combination, which is altogether rejected by the USPTO as inadequate, as explained in the Memorandum of February 21, 2002 of Stephen G. Kunin, Deputy Commissioner, copy enclosed.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 13 AND 15-21 UNDER 35 USC 103(a) OVER AAPA, IMAMURA AND YAMAKAWA IN VIEW OF INOUE (USP '806)

The independent claims 13, 15, and 19, as amended above, clarify that the "specific signal" is display data (signal). Therefore, as to claim 13, "the internal power supply controlling unit produces power supply control signals and stops an operation of the internal power supply circuit by changing the power supply control signals, in response to the detected display data", as to claim 15, "the drive control signal control unit controls drive control signals of a plasma display in response to the detected display data", and as to claim 19, "the drive control signal control unit controls drive control signals of a flat plasma display to control a plurality of drive voltages of the flat plasma display in response to the detected display data" patentably distinguish over Imamura, Yamakawa, Inoue nor AAPA, taken singly or in any proper combination, since none thereof discloses those claimed features.

Again, the Action is silent regarding any motivation to effect the combination of the references and, at most, relies on "common knowledge" which is rejected as inadequate by the

Kunin Memorandum, *supra*.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the references of record, taken singly or in any proper combination and, there being no other objections or rejections, that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

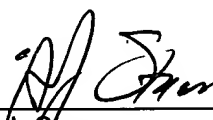
Should the Examiner be inclined otherwise than to allow the application as a result of the present response, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for applicants to schedule an interview to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

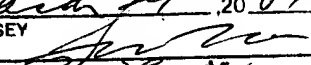
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 29, 2004
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By: 
Date: 3-29-04